## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5

10

15

which interfaces a primary-side bus with a plurality of secondary side buses, the primary-side bus being a local bus in a system and the secondary-side buses being external buses connected to the system, the bus bridge supporting a plurality of kinds of operations one of which is an operation related to a serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394, the arbitration method comprising the step of giving an access right equally to each of the secondary-side buses, when access demands to the primary-side buse are lodged from more than two of the secondary-side buses at the same time, by not giving a priority to any one of the secondary-side buses.

20

25

2. The arbitration method as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the secondary-side buses is the serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394, and the rest of the secondary-side buses are card buses.

The arbitration method as claimed in claim
further comprising the step of:

giving a priority right to the serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394; and

maintaining the access right given to the serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394 when an access demand is lodged from the secondary-side buses other than the serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394.

10

15

20

4. The arbitration method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the secondary-side buses include a plurality of card buses, and the arbitration method comprising the steps of:

performing an arbitration between the serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394 and the card buses when access demands are lodged from the serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394 and the card buses; and performing an arbitration between the card buses when an access right is to be given to one of the

card busses



The arbitration method as claimed in claim
further comprising the step of changing an order of giving the access right.

5

The arbitration method as claimed in claim
further comprising the step of giving a highest
priority to the primary side bus when the primary-side
bus lodges an access demand to the secondary-side buses
irrespective of a condition of arbitration between the
secondary side buses.

15

7. An arbitration method of a bus bridge which interfaces a primary-side bus with a plurality of secondary-side buses, the primary side bus being a local bus in a system and the secondary-side buses being external buses connected to the system, the bus bridge supporting a plurality of kinds of operations one of which is an operation related to a serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394, the arbitration method

comprising the step of giving a highest priority to the primary-side bus when the primary side bus lodges an access demand to the secondary-side buses irrespective of a condition of an arbitration between the secondary-side buses.